

Extract from
Interrogation of Hideki Tojo
27 March 1946

p. 3 - 7

Q What was the purpose of your visit to the Philippines, that you have referred to, when you spoke to the Chief of Staff in connection with the "Bataan March"?

A Let's see, the independence of the Philippines was on 14 October 1943. It was in connection with the independence of the Philippines and conditions in the Philippine Islands. The purpose of it was chiefly in regard to matters related to the independence of the Philippines. I principally wanted to talk to important Filipinos in connection with independence matters.

Q How long were you in the Philippine Islands at this time?

A About three days, I think.

Q During the war, that is, from 7 December 1941 until the end of the war, was that your only visit, or were you there on other occasions?

A No, I went twice during the war.

Q What was the approximate date and purpose of that visit?

A I arrived in Thai on 4 July 1943, I believe, and stayed there, I think, for three days - the 4th, 5th and 6th. That was the principal objective of the visit, but on the way back, I spent two or three days in Malaya, one night in Sumatra, one night in Java, and one night in Manila; then I came back by plane via Formosa to Japan.

Q How many times were you in Formosa and Thai from 7 December 1941 until the end of the war?

A I was only in Thai the one time that I have mentioned. I was in Formosa twice, that is, going and coming, on the trip to the Philippines in May 1943; and again twice going and coming on the trip to Thai in July 1943.

Q What was your purpose in speaking to the Chief of Staff, on your visit in May to the Philippines, about the "Bataan March"?

A There were various matters in connection with the independence of the Philippines. They were the principal

things. I spoke to the Chief of Staff about this other matter, but it was not a principal matter of discussion.

Q Why did you discuss this matter at all with the Chief of Staff?

A As I said before, there were various rumors of the sufferings that prisoners had experienced and I inquired of the Chief of Staff because I wanted to find out the facts about it.

Q Just what did you ask him in this connection?

A I said, "I have heard these rumors about the sufferings of the prisoners. What are the facts?" He replied that it was in the broiling sun, and that means of transport were lacking and so they walked them a long ways, and that it was a fact.

Q What was a fact?

A That it was a fact that they had walked them this long distance.

Q Did you ask him or did you find out how long the distance was that the men were marched?

A I have an impression about the main conversation, but I don't remember the details beyond that.

Q Were you not interested in finding out what distance the men had been marched in the broiling sun?

A It is difficult for me now to recall to just what degree of detail the conversation extended.

Q Do you know how far it is from Bataan to San Fernando?

A I don't remember.

Q Do you recall whether you learned from the Chief of Staff how many men had either fallen out, being unable to finish, or died during the March?

A No, I don't remember details like that, but I got the impression that the responsible commander, who was Lieutenant General HOMMA, did what he could under the circumstances then prevailing.

Q What led to your belief that General HOMMA had done what he could under the circumstances prevailing?

- A It is a problem of responsibility. As Supreme Commander in the Philippines at that time, he had a great responsibility to the Emperor. This responsibility was, on the one hand, to conduct the fighting and, on the other, to establish peace and order; as to prisoners, I think that, as the responsible commander, he did what he could. It is Japanese custom tatema for a commander of an expeditionary army in the field to be given a mission in the performance of which he is not subject to specific orders from Tokyo, but has considerable autonomy. (This is called the heavy responsibility of an expeditionary force commander kongai no jūnin.)
- Q The protest of the United States Government, which was made to Japan, charged that the prisoners in the "Bataan March" were beaten, bayoneted, and shot. Did you discuss that with the Chief of Staff during your visit?
- A No, I didn't talk to him about those things. I thought that if the responsible army commander knew about those things, he would take proper action. I thought that the responsible army commander would take appropriate measures if things contrary to international law had happened.
- Q Did you inquire on either of your trips to the Philippines to find out if any action whatsoever had been taken in these matters?
- A No. As I said before, since the responsible commander had the authority I relied upon him in this matter. I only asked about the main points. Everyone thought that the Japanese character would not permit acts of an atrocious nature. This little booklet which I have here was issued on 8 January 1941 in connection with the China Incident. The title of it is "Teachings for the Battlefield" Senjin Kun. It was issued by me as War Minister and at the time of the Greater East Asia War, officers and men had the same instructions. I will quote only briefly. Properly, it is a book on fighting, but if you will translate the pages I have marked in blue pencil, I will appreciate it. I thought that these were being carried out. The booklet was given to the interpreter with the pages marked which will be translated and inserted in the record. See attached translation of booklet which is being made a part of this interrogation.
- Q During your two visits to the Philippines, that you have referred to, did you visit and inspect either Camp O'Donnell, or any other prison camp?

- A No, I didn't. I had no time for it. The only one I visited was Omori Prison Camp, here in Japan.
- Q While you were in the Philippines on those two occasions, did you visit any camp where civilians were interned?
- A No, I didn't. I am not too sure, but it seems to me I visited one camp for civilians in Malaya, I think it was. I am not sure about it.
- Q During either of those visits to the Philippines, did you look into or inspect the treatment that wounded American soldiers and Filipinos were receiving?
- A I visited a hospital where there were wounded Japanese, but I don't know whether there were wounded Filipinos or Americans in it or not.
- Q And your purpose in going there was to visit the Japanese wounded, was it not?
- A Yes, that was the main thing.
- Q And you did not go to that hospital looking for either Filipinos or American wounded, did you?
- A No, not specially. As I said, I did visit the hospital, but I don't know whether there were any wounded Americans or Filipinos there or not.
- Q During your visits to Thai and Formosa, did you visit any prison camps at which American and British prisoners were interned?
- A No, I didn't. In Formosa, I stopped at Taihoku. I think the prison camp was at Karenko, which was a long distance away. But I went to Taihoku.

* * * * *

Attachment: Partial translation of booklet entitled "Teachings for the Battlefield" [Senjin Kun.]

NOTE: The witness produced a 32-page pamphlet entitled "Teachings for the Battlefield" Senjin Kun issued on 8 January 1941, over his own name, several passages of which were underlined. The underlined passages are translated as follows:

* * * * *

Page 2 and 37. "When within the surroundings of the battlefield, one is apt to be absorbed by what is immediately before one's eyes and stray from principles and occasionally these acts may be contrary to one's duty as a soldier. Much discretion is needed."

Page 5 and 67. "To obey Imperial commands, to be brave as well as just, to be humane as well as brave, and to realize the grand harmony of the world - such is the spirit of the Emperor Jimmu, first Emperor of Japan. Bravery must be stern and charity must be far-reaching. If there is any enemy resisting the Imperial troops, we must destroy him with our tempestuous military power. Even if we succeed in subduing our enemy with our unrelenting power, if we lack the grace of refraining from attacking those who have laid down their arms and of treating kindly those who obey us, we can hardly be called perfect soldiers."

Page 24 and 257. "Care must be taken in the protection of property and materials owned by the enemy. Requisition, confiscation and destruction of materials, etc., must always be effected in accordance with regulations and invariably in conformity with orders by commanding officers. In view of the basic principles of the Imperial Army, we must be magnanimous of heart and treat innocent inhabitants with kindness."

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文書第四二二〇号

東條英機 閣下

一九四三年三月二十一日

第三一頁

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No 1982A

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No 1

問 前二連多、行進間、主君方、長、話、時、人、大、見、問、自、的、何、を、カ

答 字、子、大、島、機、立、九、三、年、船、和、十、五、日、自、大、島、機、立、上、島、機、能、二、間、に、上、了、ら、る、か、主、上、三、大、島、機、立、二、間、に、事、柄、二、就、上、件、二、間、に、主、上、ク、改、見、入、達、ト、話

問 其、際、大、島、二、機、方、何、位、滞、在、し、タ、カ

答 約、三、日、間、ア、ラ、タ、ト、思、ハ、ス

問 戦、争、期、間、に、九、三、年、船、和、十、五、日、十、五、日、

ソ、時、唯、一、回、訪、問、シ、タ、タ、リ、タ、カ、ソ、ト、モ、行、キ、タ、リ、タ、カ

答 五、私、ハ、戦、争、中、二、回、参、リ、タ、リ、タ、

問 ソ、訪、問、ハ、何、時、テ、其、一、目、的、何、デ、

答 五、確、カ、九、三、年、船、和、十、五、日、自、大、島、機、立、上、島、機、能、二、間、に、事、柄、二、就、上、件、二、間、に、主、上、ク、改、見、入、達、ト、話

ソ、コ、ニ、三、日、間、即、チ、四、五、六、日、ト、滞、在、し、タ、ト、思、ハ、ス

問 主、上、目、的、ハ、何、ノ、為、メ、

二、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、二、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、

三、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、三、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、

四、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、四、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、

五、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、五、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、

六、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、六、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、

七、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、七、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、

八、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、八、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、

九、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、九、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、

十、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、十、夜、間、ハ、一、夜、間、に、ア、リ、

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住復ニ立寄リ更ニ三回、九三手船解、年七月長行ノ旅行、
住復ニ立寄リマシタ。

問 貴方ノ五月中、大島訪問時ニターニ僅ニ就テ長謀長話ニ目附、
何デニタカ。

答 大島に立寄リ種々問題ガアリマシタ。ソレガ主要ナル用件デシタ。ソレ以
外、此ニ就テ長謀長話シマシタ。ソレハ主要ナル話題デ、アリ
マシタ。

問 一体何故貴方ハ此ノ件ヲ長謀長ト討議シタリデスカ。

答 前ニ申シ上ゲタ様ニ存傷ガ尾侍ヲ受ケタト云フ種
々ノ評判ガ有リマシタ。ソレヲ私、ソレニ就テ真相ヲ
知ラシメ、思フタトテ長謀長ニ説明シマシタ。

問 ソノ問題ニ就テハワグリッドフ言フコトヲ彼ニ尋ネタデスカ。

答 私ハ存傷ノ甚シキダトイフコトニ就テ是々ノ噂
ヲ聞イテ、其ガ事實ハ何ラナカト申シマシタ。彼
ハ、火天下デアリ、且ツ又輸送機関ガ不足デ、
彼等ヲ長イ間ニ歩カセタコトガアツタガ、ソレガ
事實トイフト合ヘマシタ。

問 事実トイフコトヲ言フ事實、コトデスカ。

答 長イ間ニ歩カセタトイフ、ガ事實デアリマシタ。

No 2

問 其ノ人達ガ行進サセマシタ、ハ何ノ位ノ距
離デアッタカ。

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貴方、参謀長ニ尋ねた事又、自令テ分りて居るが、
答、私、會談、要旨、實ニテ居リマスが、以上、詳細
ナットハ記憶致しません。

問、貴方、停虜達ニ於テ天下ニドシ程、距離ニ行進
セテ、タカラ知ラウトに思ハレカウ、デスカ。

答、何、位、詳ニイコト迄、説ニ合フタカ、確リテ、今思
ヒ出ス、ハ困難ニアリマス。

問、貴方ハ「バスターニカス」サニ、エニ、ナド、何、位、ア
知ッテ居リマス。

答、覺エテ居リません。

問、貴方、其、行進中、ドシ程、タカラ、落伍ニ、倒レ、タリ、
又、死セ、タカラ、参謀長ヨリ、問イタカ、何、ウカ、思ヒ出
ス。

答、否、私、其、様ヲ、詳細ナットハ、記憶致シ、タ、然、レ、私、貴
任、者、タル、司令官、即、チ、本、間、中、將、ハ、當時、情勢、下ニ
於テ、出来、ル、限リ、コトヲ、シ、タ、云、フ、印象ヲ、受、ケ、タ、。

問、當時、情勢、下ニ、於テ、本、間、中、將、ハ、出来、ル、限リ、コト
ヲ、シ、タ、云、フ、貴方、ハ、信念、ハ、何、處、リ、得、タ、。

答、夫、レ、ハ、責任、ノ、問題、ニアリマス。當時、比、島ニ、於ケル、最高
指揮、官、ト、シ、彼、ハ、陛下ニ、對シ、テ、重大ナル、責任、ハ、有リ
マシタ。此、責任、ハ、一面ニ、於テ、戰鬪ヲ、行ヒ、他、面ニ、於テ、治
安ヲ、確立スル、コト、デアリマシタ。停虜ニ、關シ、テ、責任、司
令、官、ト、シ、彼、ハ、出来、ル、限リ、コトヲ、行、ツ、タ、私、ハ、思ヒ
ス。日本、建前、デ、ハ、現、地、派、遣、軍、司令官、ニ、其、與、レ
テ、タ、任、務、遂、行、ニ、當、リ、タ、一、々、東京、カ、ラ、命令、ヲ、仰

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貴方、参謀長ニ尋ねた事又、自令子令りて多か
答 秘會談ノ要旨、覺エテ居りますガ不、以テ、詳細
ナリトハ記憶致しません。

問 貴方、停虜達が突天下ニドリ程、距離ヲ行進サ
セラシムカラ知ラウトハ思ヒナカク、デスカ。

答 何、位詳ニイコト迄、詮合ツタカ難カナコトヲ今思
ヒ出ス、ハ困難ナアリマス。

問 貴方ハ「バスターニカス」サレテ居ナド、何、位アニカ
知ラテ居りますカ。

答 覺エテ居ります。

問 貴方、其、行進中、ドリ程多ク、者が落伍ニ倒レタリ、
又、死ニシムカラ参謀長ヨリ問イタカ何、ウカ思ヒ出
ススカ。

答 否、秘會談ヲ詳細ナリトハ記憶致しません、然レ、秘會
任者タル司令官即チ本間中將ハ當時、情勢下ニ
於テ出来ル限リ、コトヲシタト云フ印象ヲ受ケタリ。

問 當時、情勢下ニ於テ本間中將が出来ル限リ、コト
ヲシタト云フ貴方ノ信念ハ何處カラ得タノデスカ。

答 夫レハ責任ノ問題ナリマス。當時、以島ニ於ケル最高
指揮官トシテ彼ハ陛下ニ對シテ重大ナル責任が有
リマス。此、責任ハ一面ニ於テ戰闘ヲ行ヒ他面ニ於テ治
安ヲ確立スルコトナリマス。停虜ニ関シテハ責任司
令官トシテ彼が出来ル限リ、コトヲ行フタト私ハ思ヒマ
ス。日本ノ建前デハ、現地派遣軍司令官ニ具、與ヘ
ラシム任務、遂行ニ當リテハ、東京カラ、命令ヲ仰

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ケフトナク、相當ノ獨斷權ヲ以テ之ヲ遂行スルフトニシツ
テ居マス。コレハ「樞外ノ重任」ト稱セラレテ居リマス。

問、日本ニ對シテ行ハレタ米國政府ノ抗議ハ「バターン行進」
於テ俘虜ガ打擲、サシ、銃剣ヲ突カレ、且ツ射殺サレタ
事實ヲ責メマシタ。貴方ハ訪問中參謀長ト夫レヲ
詮合セマシタカ。

答、否、私ハ夫等ノ事ニ就テ詮シマセンデシタ。私ハ責任者タル
軍司令官カ夫等ノ事ヲ知ツタナラバ、適當ナル處置
ヲ取ルタラウト思ヒマシタ。私ハ責任者タル軍司令官ハ
若シ國際法ニ及スルヤウナ事ガ起ツタトシタナラバ適當
ノ手段ヲ講ジルグラウト思ヒマシタ。

問、貴方ハ比島ヘノ何レカ旅行ニ於テ之等ノ事件ニ就キ何等
カノ處置ガ取ラレタカ何ウカラ知ル為メニ調べマシタカ。

答、否、前ニ申シマシタ通り責任者タル司令官カソノ權限ヲ持
ツテ居タコトデスカラ私ハ此ノ件ニ就テハ彼ヲ信賴シマシタ。
私ハ唯主要ナル點ニ付テノミ尋ネタニ過ギマセンデシタ。

日本人ノ性格ハ殘虐性ノ行爲ナド許スモノデナイト誰デ
モ思ツテ居マシタ。私カ持ツテ居ル此ノ小冊子ハ支那事變
ニ關シテ一九四一年一月八日發行サレマシタ。其ノ名稱ハ「戰
陣訓」デアリマス。夫レハ陸相タル私ニ依リ發行セシメ東
亞戰爭ノ時ニ將卒ハ同じ教訓ヲ受ケテ居タノデアリマス。
私ハ唯一寸カケ引用致シマセウ。本末夫レハ戰鬪ニ關スル書物
デアリマスガ若シ貴方カ私ノ青鉛筆デ印ヲ附ケタ頁ヲ翻譯シテ
下サルナラバ有難ク存ジマス。私ハ之等ノトガ実行セシテ居ルト思ヒマシ
タ。其ノ小冊子ハ頁ニ印ヲ附ケテ通訳者ニ渡セタルカ右個所ハ翻譯セラレ
記録ニ綴入セラル可シ。

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添附ノ小冊子録譯ニ參照右ノ本訊問ノ報告ヲ成スモノナリ
由同貴方が述ベタニ由ル比島訪問中貴方ハ「トドン」ニ修養收
容所又ハ其他ノ修養收容所ヲ訪問ニ觀察シマシタカ
答否私ハ致シマセデシタノ暇が有リマセンデシタ。私ハ訪問
シタノハ日本ノ大森收容所ニテシタ
同ニ同三日ノ貴方が比島ニ居タル民間人が抑留サシテ居ル
所ノ收容所ヲ訪問シマシタカ

答否致シマセデシタ餘リ確カデハ「マセ」ガ私ハ「マセ」デ
シタカ一般人ノ收容所ヲ何所訪問シタ様ニ思ヘシマス然レ
ハ「マセ」致シマセン

同ソノ事何シカノ比島訪問中貴方ハ真傷ニ付キ米兵等
比島人が受テ居ル取扱ヲ質シタリ又ハ觀察シタリシタコトガ
アリマスカ

答私ハ真傷ニ付日本ノ人々病院ヲ訪問シタ事ガアリマス然レ
ソコニ真傷ニ付比島人若シハ米人が居タカ何ウカ知リマセン
同貴方ノソコヘ行キタ目的ハ日本人ノ真傷者ヲ訪問スルタメタ
クデスネ

答ハ「夫」ガ主ト事デシタ

同ソノテハ貴方ハソノ病院ニ行キ比島人又ハ米人ノ真傷者ヲ
見ヨウトハ「マセ」カ「マセ」デスネ

No 5 答否格別ニ左様致シマセンデシタ今申シマシタ通り病院ヲ訪
問シマシタガソコニ真傷ニ付米人又ハ比島人が居タカ何ウカ知
イデス

同貴方ノ泰及ビ香港訪問中米英修養所ガ抑留サシテ居ル修
養收容所ヲ何處ヲ訪問シマシタカ

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答否私ハ行キモシタ、官憲ヲハ台比ニ泊ラセモタ、修儀収容所
全邊ヲ離シタ、死運運ニ在リト思ヒマス、私ハ台比ニ行ッテ
シタ、

× × × × × × × × × × × × × × × ×

添附——「戦陣訓」上表題セル小冊子ノ「^飛投書^飛」
註——(陳述)人ハ彼自身ノ名、記サタルニ四一^飛書^飛付^飛人^飛投書^飛ノ「戦陣
訓」上表題ヲ附シ所々ニ「アツタタル」三十二頁ノ小冊子ヲ提^飛お^飛り、
印ヲ附シタル^飛投書^飛令^飛ハ^飛ナ^飛如^飛ク^飛翻^飛譯^飛セ^飛ラ^飛ル

第三三頁「戦陣」環境タル免モスレバ眼^飛ノ^飛事^飛象^飛ニ^飛提^飛(^飛ラ^飛シ
大本ヲ^飛過^飛シ^飛時^飛ニ^飛ソ^飛ノ^飛行^飛動^飛軍^飛人^飛ノ^飛令^飛ニ^飛床^飛ル^飛が^飛如^飛キ^飛ト
ナ^飛シ^飛ト^飛セ^飛ズ^飛深^飛ク^飛根^飛ヲ^飛ザ^飛ル^飛ヤ

第六頁「第三大御心ヲ奉^飛ジ^飛正^飛ニ^飛テ^飛武^飛武^飛ニ^飛テ^飛仁^飛ニ^飛テ^飛先^飛ク^飛世^飛界^飛」
大和ヲ現スルモ、是神武自本初代、皇帝、天神ナリ、
武ハ嚴ナレバ仁ハ遍キヲ要ス、尙モ皇軍ニ抗スル
敵アリバ烈々タル武威ヲ揮ニ断乎之、撃碎ス
ベシ假令峻嚴、威克、敵ヲ屈服セシムモ服スル
撃事ヲ從フハ其ハ仁ノ徳ヲ缺クルア、バボガ以テ全
トハ言ニ難シ

第三四—三十五頁「敵産敵資ノ保護ニ留意スルヲ要ス、徵収押收物
資ノ燼滅等ハ總ニ規定ニ從ニテ指揮官ノ令ニ依
リテ皇軍ノ本義ニ鑑ミニ如クハ敵ノ無辜、生民
ヲ愛護スベシ」

× × × ×

No 6